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Substantive
4/24/01
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
HITOSHI NAKANO) : Examiner: L. Ciric
Application No.: 09/536,637) : Group Art Unit: 3743
Filed: March 28, 2000) :
For: APPARATUS WITH AIR-) : April 19, 2001
CONDITIONING SYSTEM, AND :
DEVICE MANUFACTURING)
METHOD USING THE SAME :

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APR 23 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed March 19, 2001.

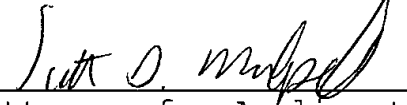
In the Office Action, it was alleged that the claims of group I and II are distinct because they are related as apparatus and method and because they have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications. These contentions are respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the amount of effort required by the Patent and Trademark Office would be lessened by permitting all of the claims presently in the application to be prosecuted in a single application. The alternative is to proceed with the filing of another application, consisting of the same disclosure, and being subjected to substantially the same search, perhaps by a different Examiner on a different occasion, with the resultant burden on the Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, it is

respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the requirement for restriction and allow the claims presently in the application to be prosecuted in a single application.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.143, Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group I, namely Claims 1-11.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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